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PALMYRA

ITS HISTORY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

PAPER READ BEFORE THE

Lebanon County Historical Society

AUGUST 28th, 1908

BY

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READING, PA.

•VOL. IV

No. 9

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Palmyra—Its History and Its Surroundings

The growth of this village, formerly known as Palmstown (Palmstaedtel) has been almost phenomenal. — It is located at the western boundary of Lebanon county; in fact, the built-up portion at the western end extends into Dauphin county. Formerly that part was sometimes nicknamed "*Help Yourself*"; it was likewise known as "Clapboard Staedtel."*

Many other towns throughout the Lebanon Valley have grown rapidly, but this one seems to surpass them all. Hummelstown has more than doubled its population since the opening of the Lebanon Valley Railroad, January, 1858, at the time of the inauguration of William F. Packer as Governor of Pennsylvania. Annville also has grown considerably, from about one thousand at that time, to between two and three thousand now. The City of Lebanon itself has made great strides, having increased from a village of a little more than two thousand, including North Lebanon, to a city of almost or altogether twenty thousand. Myerstown has probably trebled its popula-

*Although somewhat uncertain, apparently the postoffice was Palmyra from the time of its establishment, 1804, and this name was then transferred to the town. In the popular speech it still is "Palmstaedtel." It has been stated that the change was made in 1810, six years after it became a postoffice, but we doubt that.

tion. Richland, Sheridan, Robesonia, Wernersville and Sinking Spring, each of which consisted of a railroad station, hotel and several houses, have now become thriving and prosperous villages. Some of them have started up banks and want to be incorporated as boroughs. Womelsdorf, at a distance from the railroad, stood almost absolutely still until it was reached by the trolley some ten or twelve years ago. The City of Reading itself has felt the impetus and has increased at least five fold and become a city of a hundred thousand.

There has been a similar development along the line of the East Pennsylvania Railroad. There we find Temple, Blandon, Fleetwood, Lyons, Bowers, Tipton, Shamrock, Alburtis, Macungie and Emaus. All of them are thriving villages. Some have been incorporated as boroughs, with a population of from one to three thousand, or even more. The City of Allentown itself has grown from a borough, containing from six to eight thousand, to be a city of about fifty thousand.

Palmyra has not only kept pace fully with all of them, but it has surpassed most of them, having grown from a small village of between two and three hundred to be a town of between two and three thousand. In one respect it differs from many of the towns it has outstripped. As far as our knowledge extends it has never made a serious effort to become incorporated. Why or wherefore we cannot say. But it is almost anomalous for a town of between two and three thousand people to be without police protection of its own, especially where there are several banks and other large industrial establishments. Whether it is that the people of the township feel it to be their duty to provide ample school buildings and ample school facilities for those of the town, or whether the former see in it an advantage for themselves by which they secure the benefits and advantages of a high school for the whole community, we are unable to say. Whether there are other reasons which outsiders may fail to see or to appreciate, we do not know.

Personal Reminiscences.

The writer will be pardoned for indulging in a few personal reminiscences. On a September morning, 1842, he started for school. An uncle, D. S. Early, made his home with the family and took charge of him. At first the days passed uneventfully. Some of his experiences were such as might have been expected, when a little boy who had never spent a day away from home; who had never seen a school; who had never had a playmate other than a younger brother and who had never heard a word of English spoken, was sent to an English school. It is no wonder that when, according to the methods of teaching then in vogue, he was called upon to recite his A B C's, as it was then called, the teacher pointing with a pen, a pencil, or a little stick, *i. e.*, to name the letters as they were pointed out, finding some "dog ears" on the book, he should want to take time to straighten them out. It was perfectly natural therefore, that when the teacher addressed him impatiently, calling to him, "Hurry up, John," he should say with perfect innocence, "wart jushit, ich komm glei." (Wait, I am coming, presently.)

At first he recited entirely alone. Most of those of his own age, Oliver Henry, Louisa Henry, Henry Segner, Henry Houck, Carrie Matter and some others, who had attended school before, recited in a class. They spelled syllables and short words. Before the winter was over he was put into the same class. Then began the formation of a friendly quintet, who although rivals in the class, remained fast friends during their entire school life and even later. They were: William H Thome, Henry Houck, Carrie Matter, Louisa Henry and the writer of this sketch. Not only did they pursue their studies together and in the same class, but they always managed to stand together. If any one of them missed a day, the others would encourage and cheer him or her up until they filled their five places at the head of class. Then all were happy.

This friendly relation continued throughout their entire

school life. Then Henry Houck became a school teacher, Louisa Henry went to school at Mechanicsburg. Cumberland County, William H. Thome and self entered the Preparatory Department of Pennsylvania College and Carrie Matter alone remained at Palmyra. Social intercourse was uninterrupted until about 1860, when Henry Houck had married and settled at Lebanon; William H. Thome had become a practicing physician at Palmyra and soon after entered the army as a surgeon; Louisa Henry had become the wife of Jacob Killinger, at Annville; Carrie Matter became the wife of Israel Landis and ere long left the town; the writer himself became pastor of congregations in Lancaster County.

Alexander Dasher.

No doubt some of the older generation will remember Alexander Dasher, the teacher who had charge of the school at that time. He seems to have been the last of the family. He lived with his mother in the large stone house directly opposite the tavern. The house at that time belonged to the widow of J. Adam Deininger, Jr. She was the mother of Leonard Deininger, who lived on a farm south of the town, John D., Adam D., both dead long since, and Benjamin D., until recently a resident of Campbellstown, were her grandsons. One of her daughters was Mrs. John Ernst, another Mrs. John Lutz and the third Mrs. John Miller.

Mr. Dasher had several prominent characteristics. He was a strict disciplinarian. He was thoroughly versed in English. He was an excellent penman. But unfortunately he was given to the use of stimulants. When under their influence he was apt to be morose, suspicious and very irritable.

Presumably very few of his pupils will ever forget how he would line up the little chaps in primary classes and have them pronounce this, that, through, thousand, therefore, bleeding and

other similar words, until they could pronounce them correctly. The result was that very few of his pupils were ever guilty of betraying their German origin by any peculiarity of accent or enunciation. Nearly all of them could move in almost any circle without once causing people to suspect that they could speak any other than the English language. He lived to a good old age. Between 1870 and 1875, it was said, he had his home with some relatives in Lykens Valley. He was then considerably past eighty.

Locking Out the Teacher.

One incident of those early school days will never fade from memory. It was during the first or second winter. There had been much talk and even considerable boasting about locking the teacher out before Christmas. This was an old time custom. But it had not occurred for some years. The scholars were frequently warned that it would prove a most unfortunate movement for which they would certainly be sorry, if they locked Mr. Dasher out. Finally a number of the larger scholars decided to try the experiment. So one afternoon, a few days before Christmas, the smaller scholars being sent home, they bolted the doors and fastened the shutters tightly. When the teacher came he could not get in. The scholars refused to open for him, unless under promise of liberal presents for Christmas. Not being able to get into the schoolhouse, he went home to await results. Of course they could not keep him out forever. Finding that they could not accomplish anything the scholars also went home.

After Christmas the school was again opened, and the settlement of accounts followed immediately. On the morning of the first day the culprits were called to account. Mr. Dasher seemed to know precisely who were the ringleaders. We do not remember all their names, but John Longenecker, Henry Longenecker and Henry Stager came in for their full share of

punishment. All were flogged, but these most unmercifully. Dasher literally made the dust fly. Some of the others, one of the Longenecker girls and some of the Rodarmel girls were also punished, but not so severely. But if either John or Henry Longenecker ever forgot the thrashing they received they must have been good at forgetting.

Another little incident which we do not propose to give in detail, is worthy of record. One of the smaller scholars was laid up for almost an entire year with an attack of "*white swelling*." Of course he could not attend school during this time. During his sickness he had been petted very much. He was accustomed to have his own way. In the fall his father brought him to school. He fairly dragged the boy thither. We heard him when still a good way off. His father had gone toward home but a few hundred yards when the little fellow bolted, crying, "I want to go home, boo hoo! boo hoo!" When he caught up with his father, the latter applied the strap, brought him back and told the teacher to repeat the dose if necessary. After that he proved a most industrious scholar. He has made his mark in the world.

The Old Schoolhouse.

This stood at the southern edge of the pike, about equally distant from the old tavern, from the pond near where Leslie's carriage factory stands, and from the store then kept by John Early and David Earnest. It was a stone building, about 34x36 or 38 and had been erected by Hon. John Kean, about 1805. He had been appointed associate judge by Gov. Mifflin and served three terms as State Senator from the Berks and Dauphin district. In 1796 he formed a partnership with John Elder, the son of Rev. Elder, pastor of the Paxtang Presbyterian Church, in purchasing the New Market Forge, which they carried on together for ten or more years. In October, 1805 he was made Registrar of General Accounts of the Commonwealth.

In 1791 he had been appointed, together with Robert Harris and Michael Kapp, commissioners to build the courthouse and public offices at Harrisburg. If we understand Kean's own statements correctly, the Legislature had appropriated something like \$15,300 for this purpose, certainly not a very magnificent sum. They were to receive six per cent of the money expended as compensation. The building was also to accommodate the Legislature in case the Capitol were removed to this place. They expended \$15,327.49. Their enemies at once charged that they had squandered \$2000 of the public money. The matter was carried to court. Harris was left out of the matter and Kapp held aloof. The occurrence of the whiskey insurrection about this time made matters worse. The opposition and criticism did not cease.

In 1803 he purchased a house and nine acres of land—the draft says seven acres and ninety-six perches, with six per cent allowance, at Palmyra. Survey on drafts show that this was the house occupied as a residence and shoemaker's shop by John Kieffer, sixty or sixty-five years ago. Afterwards it was occupied by Kieffer's son-in-law, Abraham Zimmerman. The semi-circular window in the eastern gable is said to have been taken from the old Bindnagle's Church but has been removed of late.

In 1802 Hon. Kean was elected to the Senate for a third time. Another fierce attack was now made upon him by Benjamin Mayer, a German printer. This attack seemed so unwarrantable that Kean instituted suit. Mayer was found guilty and condemned to pay a fine of \$300. Kean would not use the money for his personal benefit. He therefore applied it to the building "of the stone schoolhouse at Palmyra." Evidently politics also ran high in those days.

This building remained in use about forty years. Then it made room for the first public school building which was located

towards the western end of the town. This, too, was a stone building. It was located one hundred yards or more north of the pike near the northeast corner of Joseph Longenecker's garden.

In the old schoolhouse the desks extended along the three sides of the building, north, west and south, the scholars facing each other. At the door there was a passage through the desks. This was at the south side. The teacher's desk occupied the eastern end, alongside of the large chimney.

As near as can be gathered, the predecessor of Mr. Dasher was Abraham Philips, Esq. The writer's father often spoke of his experience as a pupil under him. Squire Philips, a justice of the peace, as he was generally known, seems to have brought some of his native Irish dialect with him. Into this he would fall when he became excited and wanted to reprove his scholars. He was also a surveyor and scrivener. Some of his work, as also that of one of his pupils, Benjamin Oehrle, shows considerable ability. It would be hard to surpass their penmanship. We have however sometimes had a lurking suspicion that possibly Rev. Benjamin German taught this school for a short time. He entered the ministry in 1817. Benjamin Oehrle and the rest of the family always spoke of him as if he had been their teacher. While he may have taught the school at the Bindnagle's Church, this does not seem altogether likely. William Oehrle, Esq., remained a member of the Campbellstown Church until Benjamin German became pastor at Bindnagle's. He would therefore hardly have sent any pupils to Bindnagle's, or was there a church school at Campbellstown? Possibly therefore Benjamin German may have preceded Abraham Philips at Palmyra. But to make matters more confusing, the Catechism of William Early has this inscription, "William Early's Book, September 1st, 1819, Campbellstown." He was just approaching his eleventh birthday anniversary; and would hardly be attending the catechetical class.

While Palmyra has had a rapid growth, the matter has sometimes been overstated. About eight or ten years ago, some one who evidently did not take time to reflect on what he was saying, published a statement to the effect that sixty years prior it had less than sixty inhabitants, or about twelve or fifteen families. That this was an overstatement will be evident from the fact that sixty-six years ago, 1842, there were no less than three dozen of families, between one hundred and forty and one hundred and seventy-five inhabitants. It would make this article entirely too lengthy to give the names and describe the location of the families. There are several whom we could not locate at this time and distance. We will therefore begin at the eastern end, locate a few, then give the names of the others, simply indicating whether they lived north or south of the pike.

The only house east of the road from Gravel Hill to Campbellstown and south of the pike, between 1842 and 1845, was that occupied by Martin Early as a store and residence. Then came the dingy frame building now occupied by A. Farnsler's tailor shop. One or two families occupied that. Dr. Thome's residence and office, formerly Abraham Philips', came next. Opposite, on the north side, was the residence and store of Joseph Horstick. This is said to have been constructed of the materials of the old Bindnagle's Church. But this is doubtful. Then, on the opposite side, between Dr. Thome's and the tavern, Joseph Bowman, elected sheriff 1843. Then a Carmany family, who soon after moved to Myerstown—Cornelius, the son, was a schoolmate. The next was the tavern kept by Mr. German, who went to Iowa. Opposite, on the north side, was the large stone house occupied by Mrs. J. Adam Deininger, Alexander Dasher and his mother. Next, on the same side, was the store kept by David Earnest and John Early. John Early and family resided here. Then, on the same side, John Ream with Elizabeth Bowman. A little further, on the opposite side, John Miller in a large brick house. At the northwest corner of his garden the

tenant house was occupied by Lückenbills. Almost directly in front, in the middle of the street, the pump stood. On the north side "Betz Ernst," "Betz Henry." Think there was still another house immediately west. About this we are in doubt. Then came the shop and residence of John Kieffer, already referred to. Next was Susanna Rissor's house, a small log affair. Just beyond Abraham (?) Peiffer's tin shop and residence. Opposite these, on the south side, the shoemaker shop and residence of George Aurents. Some hundred yards further west, on the north side, Peter Rodearmel's tavern, with pump alongside. Diagonally across, on south side, was the residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Seachrist. Then Conrad Horstick's store and residence. Just beyond, a rough cast house occupied by Mary Geib and Lizzie Cope. Opposite, on the north side, the large farm house of Joseph Longenecker. Diagonally across, the large barn, and in the angle formed by the lane and the pike, the large pond. A small field's breadth beyond Longenecker's house stood a small dingy frame building. Do not remember who occupied it. Then Peter Schwanger's blacksmith shop. Then another dingy frame house, somewhat larger, occupied by Schwanger. Right alongside of this the large stone building, now converted into a hotel, then occupied by Rev. J. H. Vanhoff and another family. Think it was his son-in-law, Mr. Stein, but am not sure. I know that the twin sons of Mr. Stein attended school. Directly opposite the Schwanger residence, on the south side, was the shoemaker shop and residence of Samuel Honck. At the north-west corner was another pump. Right back of it was the saddler shop of Kieffer and Matter. Alongside of that, the upper hotel, Matter's. Several hundred yards beyond was the Palm Church erected in 1845. Samuel Segner's residence and tailor shop was nearly as far west of the church as Matter's hotel was east of it. The last house east of the upper Campbellstown road was the farm house of Andrew Henry. It was also the last one in Lebanon County.

Beyond the Dauphin line, on the north side, we find George

Hemperly's, William Snoddy's residence and wheelwright shop, Runkle's blacksmith shop and residence. George Schneider's residence and tailor shop, Jacob Miller's saddler shop and residence and the tollgate then kept by Miller. Unless greatly mistaken there were several small log houses beyond. On the south side Aquilla Richards had his home. He had a brother, Eli, but think he was a bachelor. Abraham Henry, Martin Bowman, generally dubbed "der barfuessig Marty," because of a saying that from the first of May untill the time of the first frost in the fall, he never wore shoes. Beyond this, a little off from the road, was the residence of "Billy" Rager. There were one or two other houses in this same section, one occupied by Jacob Kaehle and the other by his brother-in-law, Henry (?) Long. They came from Berks County, not very far from Wohleberstaedtel (Mt. Aetna.) Besides this there were several other families. Henry Stager attended school regularly while the old schoolhouse was in use. Where the family lived we do not know. From this it will be seen that there were not less than thirty or thirty-two families on the Lebanon County side and at least ten or a dozen on the Dauphin side, giving a population of not less than from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and seventy-five. During the next five years not less than twelve or fifteen families were added. Whilst this may not seem a very large increase, the fact that it represents a growth of about forty per cent in five years, shows that it was moving forward.

The Second Schoolhouse.

This has already been referred to. All the pupils of the town and vicinity were at once transferred to it. About the name of the teacher our recollection is not as clear as it might be. The excitement concerning the Mexican war, which was at its height then, will never be forgotten. But whether Aaron E. Weidman was the only teacher or whether D. Balsbaugh taught one term intervening we cannot say positively. We know that

Mr. Balsbaugh taught several terms, with an intermission of one year or more. He certainly taught in the brick or lower schoolhouse in 1850 and 1851. In 1851 he went to Gettysburg. Before that he was absent a year. After that year's absence we recall distinctly that he "boarded round." One scene which occurred during that term is impressed ineffaceably on the memory. During the week he was boarding at the extreme eastern end at a tavern, and was occupying the table alone, when one of the youngsters approached him and said, "Press mer die Grumbeere net all, ich will ah dovon." (Don't eat all the potatoes, I want some too.)

Mr. Weidman came about the time the building of the church was completed. As soon as that was done he became the prime mover in the establishment of a Sunday school, but he did not remain very long. He left suddenly. Whether he was ever heard of afterwards we do not know.

During one of the terms the teacher was again locked out. In company with John Killinger, the oldest brother of Mrs. Polly Schiffler, we watched the proceedings. The teacher very sensibly ignored the whole thing. That ended it. There were no more lockouts.

The Brick Schoolhouse.

But the town was growing. One school could no longer contain the pupils. The school board entered into a contract with Joseph Louck, at that time residing on a farm south of the town, to erect a second schoolhouse. If memory is not entirely at fault he received between \$400 and \$500. It was a brick building and was located at the angle formed by two alleys—one along the hotel stable and the other back of the residences, several hundred yards due south of the first or old schoolhouse. Both these public school-buildings had a middle aisle with desks for the pupils on both sides. Aaron E. Weidman was the first

teacher. He had been in attendance upon a New York or a New England institution. Apparently he had imbibed something of the spirit of that section and was fond of expatiating upon some of their social customs. Other teachers in this school were: D. Balsbaugh, Darius J. Seltzer and A. Frank Seltzer, now a lawyer of Lebanon. The teachers in the other school were: Mr. Hofferd, afterward located at Weissport, Carbon County, and Joseph E. Jackson, subsequently located at St. Clair, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Many amusing and exciting incidents connected with those early school days might be related. A few will suffice. For some time Andrew Hershey was generally the victim of Mr. Dasher's wrath. Possibly it was not very amusing to him or to the teacher to see the latter lay it on as hard as he could, and then to see Andrew looking up into his face grinning. Daniel Ney was another scape goat. Scarcely a day passed that he did not receive one or two floggings. It was remarkable that he seldom, if ever, shed any tears or even whimpered. The report was generally accepted that he had a leather lining, re-enforced with paper and other materials, covering his entire back. It was clearly noticeable that Mr. Dasher, who understood thoroughly how to lay on the rod effectually, could seldom make him wince. About 1844 or 1845 William Ney, who was a weaver, and with whom the boy lived, moved to Myers-town, and we have not heard of him since.

One day the whole school was upset when John Miller, a poor cripple, who had his home with an uncle, was taken with an epileptic fit. This occurred in the brick school house.

Building of the Palm Church.

The land on which this church was erected was donated by Samuel Segner and Philip Matter, both Lutheran. Up to this time, 1845, all desirous of attending religious worship and

using the German language-had to travel to Bindnagle's, nearly three miles to the north, or to Campbellstown (we use the name as given then) two miles south. Possibly it might be regarded as a remarkable coincidence that the Union Church at this latter place should be rebuilt at the same time. Their old church had been in use fifty years, the first one having been erected 1794. Another noticable fact is that after two Lutherans gave the land and the Lutherans contributed two-thirds of the money required, as the records show, the Reformed were not slow to claim equal rights, but to rule everything. This was specially manifest when some years later the Lutherans refused to re-elect one of their own men, who had proved himself altogether unworthy of any office, as superintendent of the Sunday school. The Reformed at once took up the *scape grace*, organized a separate school in the Union Church and put that fellow at its head.

The two churches were similar in design. Both were built of stone and had galleries on three sides. Each had a cupola with bell. As church bells were quite a novelty in that section, they were rung almost every evening from early fall, in fact from harvest time, until the churches were dedicated. Sometimes it almost seemed as if those who rang them were trying to outdo each other.

The writer still has a faint recollection of the dedication of the Palm Church. Dr. W. G. Ernst and Rev. Stein came to his father's house after the afternoon service. If not mistaken Rev. J. T. Vogelbach, then pastor of St. Michael's, Harrisburg, also preached on the occasion. The only Reformed minister we can recall was Rev. Joel Reber, who became the first pastor or supply. He was succeeded by Rev. A. S. Leinbach, Rev. J. D. Zehring, Rev. C. F. Hofmeyer and then by Dr. J. E. Hiester.

The Lutheran congregation has had quite a lengthy list of

pastors. Rev. J. T. Vogelbach supplied it for a year or two. Then Palmyra, Campbellstown, Bindnagle's and Shell's entered into the following compact. The original of it came into the writer's possession when acting as administrator of his father's estate. March 21, 1846, the Lutheran congregation in the new Palm Church made the following proposition: "If the Evangelical Lutheran congregations of Campbellstown, Bindnagle's and Shell's will unite with us in the formation of a charge, we, the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Palmyra, obligate ourselves herewith to unite with them in calling a minister, who, either already is a member of the Synod of Pennsylvania, or of one who is a member of a Synod in correspondence with said Synod, and who upon his election will become a member of the same i. e. of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania." "Palmyra, Lebanon County, March 21, 1846." This paper was signed by George Schneider, Samuel Segner, George Hemperly, Daniel Carmany, John Forney and Conrad Horstick.

These are the names in the congregation's copy, which was turned over to Joseph Louck who succeeded William Early as Trustee of Parsonage or Parish. In a copy in the possession of William Early, Jr., and found among his private papers, at the time of his death the name of Daniel Carmany is not found, but that of William Early, Jr., instead.

This proposition was accepted by these congregations. Under this compact Rev. L. G. Eggers, belonging to the West-Pennsylvania Synod, was called, united with the Pennsylvania Synod and served five years. October, 1852 he was succeeded by Rev. W. G. Laitzle from the Allegheny Synod. He remained less than three years, but united with the Synod. Then (1855) Rev. S. Yingling, of the East Pennsylvania Synod, was called, but declined to live up to the compact. The first year the charge sent a delegate to its own Synod, but neglected to do so for several years afterwards.

Then when Rev. W.-S. Porr, who already belonged to the Synod of Pennsylvania, and remained in connection with it, was elected and called, there was considerable friction. If he had been faithful and true to the church and her teachings, all would no doubt have been well. But as he proved himself utterly unworthy of his office, and attempted a very unsuccessful straddle in the matter of measures, the whole field suffered great damage. He was succeeded by Rev. W. S. Emery, Rev. H. Geiss, R. M. Jacobi, Rev. L. G. Eggers (again), Rev. G. T. Weibel, Rev. M. Schimpf, I. W. Gauker. Palm Church was now separated from Bindnagel's and Shell's by the Conference, upon request of the congregations. Since then it was served by Rev. A. B. Markley and J. W. Marten, both residing at Jonestown, and now by Rev. J. H. Neiman. Have not time to relate the wrangles and difficulties because of C. H. being treasurer and paymaster.

The Boom of 1847-50 or 52.

From a dozen to twenty houses were added in a comparatively short time. Of these, more than half a dozen were east of the lower or brick school house. Besides these, there were a number of additional families whom we cannot locate. Beside the blacksmith shops already there, viz., Runkel's, at the western end; William Christy or Christian, just east of the lower tavern, with Peter Schwanger's, which was now turned into a manufactory of agricultural implements, with foundry attached; another was added still further east, immediately adjoining the parsonage property on the west. Besides this two carriage factories; one at the extreme east and the other at the extreme west end, were added. Another tavern was erected at the southwest corner of the crossing of the pike and the eastern Campbellstown road. Unfortunately the taverns seemed to thrive more than any other institution of the town. It was only at a later period that the number of the churches increased beyond precedent.

Increase Since the Opening of the Railroad.

However, it was not until the Lebanon Valley Railroad had been built that the town began to grow regularly and rapidly. Martin Early first bought the tract east of Railroad Street, and then that west of it, and laid them out in town lots. The erection of the large brick warehouse opposite the passenger station followed. One building after another was erected until that street is built up from the pike to the very edge of the Gravel Hill, almost an entire mile. Main Street, or the turnpike, has been built up eastwardly until the town almost reaches the old forge road, about half a mile below town. Half a dozen or more streets running parallel with Railroad Street have been opened northward as far as the railroad. Quite a number of those are well built up. Unfortunately, there are only two streets running southward: the old Campbellstown road and that at Mr. Mark's, the old Miller property. Now that the trolley runs through the town, it only remains for some wide-awake, enterprising man to develop the western end of the town. That would soon double its population. All points of the town would now be as accessible as those near the railroad have hitherto been; and the drawing of a line four hundred yards or one square south of the turnpike from the old forge road to the Andrew Henry road, would furnish the most desirable sites in its entire vicinity. There would be natural drainage all the way. It is the water-shed.

The Water Supply.

The great drawback of Palmyra is the want of an abundant supply of good water. Its present want seems to be well supplied by the existing arrangements. The water at present is brought from the springs on the Bomberger and Brunner farms. But it certainly is a matter of grave doubt whether the present source of supply would be adequate to meet the wants of a town of double the present population. The Swatara is two

miles distant, and the water would have to be filtered. All other sources to the north are still farther away. They would hardly afford a sufficient supply. The Spring Creek is just as far from the town, and since Hershey is located there, it is doubtful whether its use would be allowed. Farther upstream, near Campbelltown, the supply would be altogether inadequate. Killinger's Run or the Quittapahilla might afford some relief. But we are strongly inclined to believe that no permanent supply could be secured here.

The Introduction of Water.

For more than seventy-five years Palmyra depended upon wells and ponds for its supply of water. There were five that might have been called public wells or pumps. All of these had the large wooden pump stocks. They were all worked by the large heavy handle. They were suction or lift pumps with two boxes or buckets. The eastern one was in front of the lower tavern, with sufficient space for a wagon to pass between it and the porch. The second was in the middle of the turnpike, almost opposite the northwest corner of John Miller's garden. It was at the point where, in olden time, the road from the Horse-shoe pike, and leading to the Gravel Hill, crossed this pike. It has been closed up for a number of years. The third was on the north side of the pike, just below the second tavern, now discontinued. The fourth was on the south side of the pike, between Samuel Houck and Matter's tavern, with just space enough for people to pass between it and the buildings. The fifth and last one was again on the north side just outside of Andrew Henry's yard. If not mistaken, it is now enclosed within the yard. These generally furnished the water for family use. There were two ponds, one several hundred yards west of the lower tavern. The other was at the turn of the lane just beyond Longenecker's barn. These were used for watering cattle.

It will be seen at once that when the town began to grow, and especially east of all these, other arrangements were needed.

At the meeting of the Society at which this paper was read, Dr. S. P. Heilman, the Secretary, handed the writer, the following extract from the "Acts of the Legislature of Pennsylvania." This copy had been sent to the Secretary by E. M. Eshelman, of Takoma Park, D. C., under date of Aug. 25, 1908, just 100 years after the "Act" was presented and passed.

"An *act* for the Relief of the Inhabitants of the Village of Palmyra, in the Township of Londonderry, Dauphin County.

"Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., That John Elder, Matthew Irwin, Daniel Wonderlich, John Ernst, John Downy and Levi G. Hollingsworth be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to raise, by way of lottery, a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars, for the purpose of procuring and bringing into the said village a sufficient supply of water for the use of the inhabitants thereof, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid:

"Section 2. That before the said commissioners proceed to sell any tickets in said lottery, they shall lay such scheme thereof before the Governor as shall meet his approbation, and shall enter into bonds to him for the faithful performance of their duty in selling the tickets, drawing the lottery, and paying the prizes, and paying over the nett proceeds of the lottery.

"And each of them, before entering on the duties of their appointment, shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation diligently and faithfully to perform the duties hereby intrusted to him, and at least three of the said Commissioners shall attend the drawing of each day. And when the whole is completed shall cause an accurate list of the fortunate numbers to be published in one newspaper at Harrisburg and one at Lebanon," etc.

Section 3. And be it further That Levi G. Hollingsworth, Daniel Wonderlich, Henry Longenecker, John Kean and Joseph Carmany be and they are hereby appointed Trustees to receive from the commissioners aforesaid the nett amount of the monies raised by the lottery, and it shall be their duty also to devise and plan and cause to be dug, made and executed such works, machinery and engines as will lead and procure from Derry Meeting House spring, or elsewhere, such supply of water as may be sufficient for the use of said village.

Simon Snyder—Speaker of the House of Representatives.

P. C. Lane—Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the twenty-second day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and eight.

THOMAS McKEAN" (Governor):

It will be seen from this that one hundred years ago the Legislature of Pennsylvania endeavored to raise money by the then popular method, by lottery, to bring water to Palmyra. Apparently the matter was allowed to rest; at least there is no record that anything was really done.

It also shows that the eyes of the people at that time were directed to Spring Creek for their supply of water.

It also tells us that at that time English-speaking people called it Palmyra.

By looking at Hon. John Kean's autobiography, we find that he also called it Palmyra in 1805. The surveyors did the same. As therefore the name Palmyra is already used then, one year after the establishment of the postoffice, we think we are justified in concluding that Palmyra was the name given when "Palmstaedtel" was made a post town or postoffice.

Then about 1853, Martin Early purchased the farm to the

north of the town, and east of the road leading to Gravel Hill. It contained several good springs. He then made arrangements to bring some of the water to town. But there was opposition. He then bought the land on both sides of the street, between the railroad and the pike. The road, which was pretty crooked, was straightened. Pipes were laid and the water was brought to that part of the town. It was not long before the benefits were seen. A rival party also laid pipes some years later. There was some clashing. About thirty years later (1883) the Londonderry Water Company was chartered. John S. Bomberger, Abr. L. Kreider, Henry L. Kreider, Wm. L. Kreider, John H. Landis and Henry Wilhelm were the stockholders. It is not made quite clear whether this was simply an incorporation of the old rival company or of an entirely new one. But they secured control of the one source. About six or eight years ago they secured the other (M. E.'s) and they have now laid pipes from the Brunner farm also. They may be able to secure the water from the Mark and Bowman farms, further east, if they have not already done so. We doubt whether any of these sources will furnish water for more than one or two thousand people. Altogether, it is doubtful whether they could supply a town of ten thousand inhabitants.

The Palmyra Cemetery.

About this we shall not say very much. It will be sufficient to describe its origin and to state its purpose. It will not be necessary to dwell on the details of the process by which it has been diverted from its original purpose. But whenever we think of the matter we are reminded of the Yankee squire of German extraction of whom we read in our school boy days. The ownership of a small hog was in dispute. The case was tried before him. He cut the matter short by confiscating the animal and taking it himself. So Squire Stouffer and his noble friend D. Elliott, even without an accusation or trial, confiscated the cemetery by deciding that those who had had control of it up

to their time had forfeited their rights. According to the testimony of one of their number, they "came together at a place." The same man said "it was not in a church." There they appointed whom they wanted, and they hold it now. But it seems to us that if men want to represent churches they should be appointed by the congregations, and should not appoint themselves. Or did these men believe that their own congregations did not have sufficient confidence in them to appoint them?

As to the history of its inception and establishment, that occurred in this wise: When Martin Early bought the Joseph Longenecker farm, about 1864, his brother, William Early, conceived the idea that this would present an opportunity to remedy some things which to him seemed to need remedying. As seen above, there was but half an acre of ground connected with the Palm Church. Although Palmyra still was only a small village, with from five to six hundred inhabitants, the burying ground was almost entirely occupied. Wm. E. therefore proposed the purchase and setting aside of several acres of that part adjoining the town as a cemetery. This would be readily accessible. It could be used as an additional burying ground, under the control of members and ultimately of the congregations themselves. These six men, W. Early, Martin Early, Samuel Segner, John Miller, Joseph Witmer and Peter B. Witmer, then secured this plot of nearly three acres. Its estimated value was \$1,800. Wm. Early advanced \$1,500.00 until matters could be shaped and each of the others could pay his \$300.00. As a matter of course, Martin Early paid no money, as it was his land that was used. He therefore received only \$1,500.00 in money. It was for this reason, too, that when financial ruin came to S. Segner, his share was made up out of the proceeds of the sale of lots, as the books show. This plainly shows two things: that it was to be treated as primarily intended for the behoof of the Palm Church, and that it was to be left in the hands of the original purchasers and their families until such time as they should

either die out or voluntarily turn it over to the respective congregations. This would have occurred long ere this if the men who have placed themselves in control had not snatched it away.

These six men, with the exception of Peter B. Witmer, who was not a resident of the town at the time, had taken an active part in building the church and in organizing the congregations. Although of different faiths, three being Lutheran and three Reformed, they always acted together as brothers.

However, they were now advised that it would be better for them to secure a charter. They did so. Wm. Early, who originated the plan, even up to the day of his death, always asserted that the charter provided that each of these men should remain a trustee during life; that he should then be succeeded by his legal heir, with the understanding that either or any of them could devise his share to his own congregation. It was because of this understanding that John Miller, having no direct heir, willed his sixth part to the Reformed congregation.

After the writer had bought his father's share through the agency of Dr. P. M. Schwinhart, he was very much surprised to find that the provisions of the charter were not as he had been informed. Having been appointed to take his father's place, he consulted with P. B. Witmer and Martin Early, the only survivors of the original Board, the former being Secretary and the latter President. Both asserted most emphatically that their understanding of the matter was precisely the same as that of Wm. Early. He was therefore compelled to come to the unpleasant conclusion, that the attorney who secured the charter had deceived his clients, or that they had utterly failed to comprehend the fact that he was saying something entirely different from that which they wanted him to say. Two plans for rectifying the matter were proposed. One was an appeal to the court for an amendment of the charter; the other was the

adoption of by-laws, saying precisely what these men, in fact all the incorporators, thought was originally included in the charter. After a full discussion, the latter course was adopted. But the court has decided that this could not be done.

And yet there is one provision of the charter which seems to show very clearly that these men intended precisely what William Early always said they intended to do. The provision is this, that if in making repairs there should not be enough money on hand to meet the outlay, an assessment should be laid pro rata on the lots of the shareholders the same as on the simple lotholders. Now does any one suppose that if the lotholders were in absolute control they would fail to impose an assessment on the shareholders and tax only themselves. That certainly could not and would not be expected. But any one can readily perceive that if the shareholders had control, they might say: We not only paid our lots as the rest have done, but we paid \$300.00 each besides that. That should be assessment enough, i. e., eighteen dollars per annum.

We will not go into the details of any unpleasant controversies. We dismiss the subject with the single suggestion, that if Palmyra should continue to grow in the next fifty years as it has in those just passed, and become a town of 15,000 to 35,000, the cemetery could hardly remain where it now is, occupying some of the finest building sites of the town. To whom would it revert? The lotholders certainly do not own it for anything but burial purposes. It was to have gone to the two congregations. But the present managers prevent that. Some of these are lotholders, others are so constructively, and one is none at all. At least he was not a year ago.

The Founder of Palmyra.

Now a few words in regard to the founder of the town. He is generally believed to have been Dr. John Palm. 1776 is

given as the year in which the town was laid out by Palm. But an examination of the drafts and surveys would indicate that, if he did lay out the town, he took the land out of the tract owned by his son, Wm. Palm. That was bought from J. Adam Deininger. So the surveyor's draft says, and it does not mention John Palm at all. If these surveys are to be accepted, Dr. Palm never owned the Conrad Reisch tract. Besides, no part of it was ever included in Palmyra. It is really south of Wm. Palm's land, which lay between it and the town. It may be possible that the father first owned the land, and that it passed from him to the son. These are the surveyor's statements, when the Kean tract was surveyed. West of it, and the town, "Adam Deininger now Henry Longenecker"; south, "Adam Deininger now William Palm"; east, "Adam Deininger's other land"; north, "Adam Deininger now Joseph Karmany," and "Adam Deininger now John Ernst." On a smaller draft the following note is added: "Surveyed for John Kean, Esq., on the 12th day of January, 1805, the above described seven acres and ninety-six perches and allowance of six per cent; being part of a larger tract granted to Adam Deininger by warrant of the 18th April, 1755, situate in Londonderry Township; formerly Derry, Dauphin county.

"SAMUEL COCHRAN, Esq., *Surveyor General of Penna.*

"Entered at Harrisburg," etc.

Dr. John Palm was a man of considerable standing as a physician and surgeon. He served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He was born at Kloster Heilbronn, July 23, 1713, baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. He was married the first time in Germany, and had one son. Then he came to this country in the ship *Patience*, Aug. 11, 1750. (The church record gives Sept. 19, 1749, but no ship *Patience* arrived at that time.*) After settling in this section he married Salome Fenger. This wife died 1784. They had eight children. They were: John, William, Peter, Jacob.

*Besides, John Palm's name is on the ship's list Aug. 11, 1750.

Michael, Nicholas, Andrew and Mary, the wife of Jacob Bowman.

He married a third time, a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Klein. It is claimed by some that her maiden name was Williams; that she had been an Indian captive. Whether she is the person referred to in Colonial Records, Vol. VIII, p. 750. "Elizabeth Williams delivered by Mussanse, a Munsy Indian," we are unable to say.† There is nothing bearing on the subject except a tradition in the family that he was accustomed to speak of her as his Indian wife. Even apart from the fact that the statement itself rests on tradition, it could not be accepted as a proof, without further corroboration.

There was one child by this marriage. He (Dr. Palm) died in 1799, when 84 years and 9 months old. The widow then spent the remnant of her days with Wm. Early, Esq., then residing about half a mile south of town. This one child is said to have been a son, Tobias. One granddaughter, if we mistake not, was Rebecca, a very diminutive person, who was generally known as "des Beckele Balm." The writer frequently saw her. Some of the older residents of Palmyra may still remember her.

While Dr. Palm's family became widely scattered soon after his death, one of the branches having moved to Berks, and others to the far West, one of the descendants, A. Mary Palm, presumably a granddaughter, remained a member of the Campbellstown Evangelical Lutheran congregation until her death. In her will she bequeathed \$20.00 to the congregation, to be paid over at her death. The executors were Wm. Oehrley and George Schneider. In the old book in the altar of the old church the accounts were recorded. These showed that the executors had made a settlement and turned the money over to Jacob Early, treasurer. At his death, 1837, it was paid over

†She i. e. Elizabeth Williams, is also mentioned by Rupp in History of Berks and Lebanon County, p. 345.

to his successor, whose name we forgot to copy. If memory is not at fault, it was Benjamin Hocker. Twenty years ago, by careful investments, it had reached the respectable sum of several hundred dollars. So much in regard to the founder and the founding of the town. But according to the drafts on hand, Palmstown, as originally laid out, extending from the lower tavern to the Longenecker home, constituted about one-third of Wm. Palm's land. Whether he or his father did the laying out, of course we do not undertake to say.

The "Barrens" or the "Grubbeland."

In an agreement between John Early, Esq. (J. E. 2nd) and his son, J. Jacob, 1806, the Raïsch or Reisch farm is called the barrens. It is distinctly stated that this term is applied to the land lying between J. E.'s land and Palmyra. The road from Campbellstown pike to Palmyra at that time passed directly through the J. E. farm, afterwards the Augustus Carmany farm. This road was still open sixty years ago. Mr. Carmany closed that part passing through his farm about that time. There was nothing between it and Palmyra but the Reisch tract. Through this the road had been closed some years before. But we distinctly remember, that people being in a hurry, when travelling to town, would follow the old route, instead of taking the roundabout way. The Reisch farm was the only piece of land that lay between John Early's farm and Palmyra, and between Christopher Ernst and the town. Apparently the term barrens was applied not so much on account of lack of fertility as because it lacked heavy timber. In fact, we do not remember ever having seen any timber on the Reisch farm. Among the Germans it was known as the "Grubbeland," as the land without timber and having only scrubs and brushes, the clearing of which required a "grubbing hoe" instead of the axe. It seems to have been the part of the land used by the Indians for cultivation. For this purpose they had denuded it of its timber..

The Taverns.

But we hasten on. It will not be necessary to enter into a lengthy description of the town's three taverns, which seem to have taken the place of the original one located about the center of the town, where the roads east and west and north and south crossed each other. The first, or the lower one, as it was generally called, appears to have been the oldest. In fact, nearly all the old buildings were found in the eastern half. We are not quite sure about it, but it always was our impression, that this was the house kept by Caspar Dasher, whose eagle on the sign caused the Irishman to wonder why that bird was called Caspar Dasher. It was the stopping place for the stage coaches, as they were run from Reading to Harrisburg, via Lebanon. Horses were changed here. The first landlord we remember was Abraham German, who moved to Iowa. He was succeeded by Abraham Donahower, who came from Reading and returned thither. The next one, unless memory is greatly at fault, was Anthony Harter, a German, who, although now promoted to be a landlord, still kept up the huckstering business and took or sent his teams to Philadelphia with butter and eggs. It is not known that he ever said the market was good. But his invariable answer when asked about the market was "schlaecht, selir schlaecht." This finally became a popular saying, and whenever any one desired to describe anything as bad or very unpromising, he would say, "es is so *schlaecht* wie dem Anthony sei mark" (as bad as Anthony's market).

The second or middle hotel was kept by Peter Rodearmel. Apparently it did not bring in a great revenue, as Mr. Rodearmel carried on his trade as a bricklayer at the same time. He paid especial attention to putting up bake ovens. In this he was considered an expert. John, his oldest son, settled at Lebanon and died there some years ago. Charles had a tavern stand at Dauphin, eight miles above Harrisburg. He died twenty-five or more years ago. Elizabeth is the wife of E. Dissinger, a

merchant at Campbellstown. What became of Lavina we do not know. Do not remember the others. Peter Rodearmel was succeeded by Christian Hoffer, who was succeeded by Samuel Withers. Since, if we are not mistaken, it has not been kept up as a tavern. The third or upper tavern was kept by Philip Matter. This was a rendezvous for drovers, cattle dealers, etc., possibly because John Matter, the son, although running a saddler shop close by, was engaged in buying and selling cattle. He afterwards moved to Harrisburg where he acquired considerable property. He also kept a hotel there, the Motter House. One of the daughters became Mrs. Detweiler, of Middletown; Anna became the wife of Christian Hoffer; Polly became Mrs. Kiefer; Sabina died of diphtheria early in 1852; Carrie was married to Israel Landis; Linda or Melinda was married to Mr. Hershey. Whether the youngest son is still living we do not know. We have since learned that Philip Matter, Jr., lives at Marion, Indiana.

Some years ago the building was destroyed by fire and the stand was transferred to the other side of the street, to the large stone building, to which we have already referred, as the residence of Rev. J. H. Van Hoff and Mrs. Kron, afterwards Mrs. Herman. Two or three others have been added since.

The Stores.

At the eastern end of Palmyra, on the southeast corner, was the store kept by Martin Early. The site is now occupied by the Trust Company. Nearly midway between this store and the lower tavern was the Joseph Horstick store, discontinued when the proprietor died. The house is now the residence of the heirs of Peter B. Witmer, who moved into it shortly after 1852, and built an academy which was quite prosperous for a number of years. This was on the north side. On the same side, diagonally across from the lower tavern was the store of David Earnest and John Early. But this was discontinued

about 1844. John Early moved to the banks of the Quittapahila, about a mile below New Market Forge. David Earnest went to Iowa. The fourth store was that of Conrad Horstick, almost directly opposite the Longenecker house. This continued many years in the hands of father and son. It also has passed to other hands now. Their number has increased considerably. There is also now a bank and a Trust Company.

Various Matters.

There are many other matters which would be interesting, and the recital of which might be profitable. Some of them can be merely mentioned and others but briefly described.

The Horseshoe Pike.

This thoroughfare, commenced in 1803 and finished in 1810, deflecting from the Reading and Harrisburg Pike at the eastern end of Hummelstown, passes through Campbellstown, by Cornwall, through Ephrata and Downingtown to Philadelphia. It was the route by which grain and other produce were shipped to Philadelphia from this vicinity and other points further west. It seems to have derived the name Horseshoe Pike from the fact that from Blue Ball to Philadelphia it occupied the old Horseshoe Road from Lancaster to Philadelphia.

The Berks and Dauphin County Turnpike.

For many years this was the only street of the town. It was built 1816 and 1817. Dr. Egle tells us the average cost per mile was \$3,800, making a total of \$195,000 to \$200,000. It passes through the middle of the town from east to west, a little further from the southern than from the northern line of the original drafts. From Reading to Womelsdorf it is within a mile or two of the South Mountain. By the time it reaches Myerstown it almost touches Gravel Ridge on the north, following that pretty closely almost to Harrisburg, in fact until it strikes the Susquehanna Valley.

The Union Canal.

We have neither the time nor the space to give a detailed history of the construction of this public improvement. Palmyra seems to have taken more interest in it than in the turnpike, although at the nearest point it is about two miles north of the town. The route was first surveyed by David Rittenhouse and William Smith in 1792. As early as 1760 a route to connect Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware by canal was surveyed. At the same time a survey from thence to Pittsburg, 582 miles, partly via Tulpehocken and Swatara Creeks, was authorized. In 1791 a charter to connect the Susquehanna and the Schuylkill was secured. Work was actually commenced on lands between Lebanon and Myerstown, but it was strongly opposed. Earnest protests were made against the prosecution of the work. Some of the aggressions of corporations, such as buying up the property without applying it to its intended purpose and thus depriving the original owners of the land of its use, were pointed out. That some of those things have come to pass we know only too well. It has been bought up and is held without being used. Two companies had been formed. In 1817 they combined and reorganized as the *Union Canal Company*, with the special privilege of extending it from Philadelphia to Lake Erie. In 1819 and 1821 the State granted further aid by a guaranty of the interest and the monopoly of the lottery privilege. Our people evidently had not yet learned that money could be raised by oyster and strawberry festivals, theatricals, etc. The line was relocated and plans changed. Work was resumed in 1821. In six years it was completed. This was thirty-seven years after its first commencement and sixty-five years after the first survey. In 1827, the Alpha of Tulpehocken, the first boat, passed westward. \$1,600,000 in addition to the proceeds of lotteries had been expended. The main line from its connection with the Pennsylvania Canal at Middletown to a short distance below Reading is seventy-nine

miles. "It was the first canal-constructed in America" (Egle.) But we have no time for further details.

Until 1858 it was the only outlet and avenue of travel and traffic, except by means of stage coaches and Conestoga wagons. But Palmyra also figured in its history. Some ambitious citizens of the town and vicinity wished to show their progressive and enterprising spirit and formed a combination. They do not seem to have thought a charter necessary, but simply went and bought a boat. Being patriotically and historically inclined they named it the "Palmyra Hornet." It entered upon its first voyage. We do not remember distinctly where it took its cargo, but think it was at the point known as Laudermileh's. Possibly it was still known as Dixon's Ford. But when it came to the vicinity of what was subsequently known as Snyder's warehouse, about a mile east of Bindnagle's Church, the steering apparatus got out of order, or else the steersman did not understand his business, and it ran its nose into the mud and could no longer be managed. In a short time the boat was wrecked. Word was brought to Palmyra that their boat had met with misfortune. That the "Palmyra Hornet" had put its nose too deeply into the mud and perished. We understood that it proved a total loss. We remember distinctly, that about fifteen years later, whenever John Early or David Earnest, or both, wanted to set forth vividly that a venture would prove unprofitable, they would say, after a hearty laugh, "that will be about as good an investment as the Palmyra Hornet, when it stuck in the mud."

The Squires or Justices of the Peace.

Of these there were comparatively few during the first hundred years. Who preceded John Early, who entered upon his office about 1794 or 1795, we cannot say. Abraham Philips was his successor. William Early was commissioned by Gov. Hiester to fill his place. Then Thomas Kramer filled the office until near the time of his death. This fills out the first century.

Peter Schwanger.

His blacksmith shop, opposite Samuel Houck's residence and shoemaker shop, has already been referred to, but we refer to it again because of the fact that it was greatly enlarged, and it became a shop for the manufacture of agricultural implements, especially plows, cultivators, harrows and threshing machines. But he was known especially for his skill in bell ringing. He may have had equals but certainly very few superiors. When we first knew him, unfortunately he was given to the use of strong drink, but he had the good sense to heed the admonitions of one of his employers, Jacob Kaly, and became a thoroughly sober man. He had a family of twelve or thirteen children but they have all moved away.

Capers of Some of the Youngsters Sixty and Eighty Years Ago.

It would be easy to recount quite a number of these, as tradition is always busy with those things. James Philips was the oldest son of the 'Squire. He had the reputation of being a bright and lively chap. Consequently he would sometimes indulge in tricks of which some of his best friends would become the victims. He and Joshua Early were fast friends, but they were continually trying to get ahead of each other. There was a large pond along the public road (it was no public road then, but was made so about 1840 or 1842) leading by the farm of John Charles, afterwards the property of John Ebersole. By some means or other Joshua Early had treated his friend to a good ducking in the pond. James Philips got even by raising a small gnarled stump, set on a rail and covered with a cap to the window of his friend's sleeping room, which was open. When the latter got awake he saw the cap bobbing up and down. Get away there! The cap went down, but before Joshua was asleep it reappeared. If you do not stay away I'll knock you down. The cap went down again, but immediately it was

pushed up again. As might be expected the occupant of the room rushed to the window to carry out his threat. The cap tumbled, but Joshua Early nursed sore knuckles quite a while. Two other incidents were participated in by Philip Weber, a German. Some may remember him as being employed about the Capitol at Harrisburg forty or fifty years ago. He was quite vain of his literary attainments. The first experience resulted from his efforts to impose on one of the boys of the family. He had pushed the boy into the pond, named above, a number of times. The youngster felt that he dared not pit his boyish strength against the mature manhood of Weber, so he watched his opportunity. One day as Weber made a rush to push the boy in again, he side stepped and Weber got the ducking. When he emerged from the muddy water, sputtering and fuming, all bedraggled and muddy, the boy was at a safe distance, but the ducking seemed to have done Weber good. It is said he never tried the trick again.

The second incident in which Weber figured was when he tried to initiate a newcomer, a fellow countryman, in the intricacies of English. After retiring, there being two beds in the room, Weber commenced with his first lesson. He told his pupil that the English is a very easy language. In fact it resembles the German very much, but the names are differently applied, e. g., "Pferde die heisst man Haasen, Struempf die heisst man Staaken and Weibs-Struempf die heisst man Hosen." The snort that came from the other occupants of the room put an end to that recitation.

Public and Social Gatherings.

The occasions for popular and social gatherings were the *schnitz* or *applebutter parties*, and the vendue or public sale. The former were intended for the entertainment and pleasure of the young people of both sexes, and the latter were frequently attended by the women folks, especially when furniture was sold. The meeting of the sexes there was only casual.

The pasttimes, such as ball games, wrestling matches and an occasional rough and tumble fight between bullies from different sections, were, of course, intended for men, or shall we say of the latter, for brutalized men only.

In quite early days, so we were informed, there were distinct factions or parties in this vicinity, each with a leader or bully as he was called. Usually there was a fight between two of these whenever they met. This sometimes ended in a pitched battle between the factions represented. One of these characters was known as the "Gravel Hill Bully." The "Grubbelaender Bully" represented the section extending from about a mile north of Palmyra to Campbellstown. The "Sandberger Bully" was supposed to stand for everything from the Horseshoe Pike southward, including that. The appearance of one of these in the territory of another was usually regarded as a direct challenge to the one whose territory was invaded. Preparations for a fight would at once be made. Any charge of unfair advantage would be apt to result in a free fight, unless the preponderance of numbers on the one side or the other was entirely too great. Sometimes, although that rarely happened, there would be a general mix up among the rougher elements. In fact all these manifestations were generally confined to that element.

The Scotch-Irish Settlers.

It is generally proclaimed as a historical fact that the country round about Palmyra, in fact throughout the present Londonderry township, was first settled by the Scotch-Irish, and that this was the preponderating influence. This is hardly correct. It is doubtful whether that part of the township north of the turnpike and east to Killinger's Run and the Quittapahilla, contained half a dozen English speaking families. It is even doubtful whether there were three. From half a mile to a mile south of the town there were a number of that nationality. These kept up the Presbyterian churches at Derry and at Pax-

tang. For a long time the writer could not explain his grandfather's statement, that the English would express their contempt of the Germans when they met them on the way to church, by the contemptuous remark, "Look at the Dutch! Look at the Dutch!" But when he found the Campbellstown church record which showed conclusively that John Early, Jr., and all his family were members there and remained so until William Early again connected himself with Bindnagle's, about 1816 or 1817. The matter became clear, for in going to that place they would not only pass the homes of some of the English or Irish, but they would also pass large numbers of those coming from the Conewago or Sand Hills on their way to the Derry Church.

But to show that this statement is absolutely correct we give the names of the bulk of the settlers occupying the territory prior to and up to 1800. We begin where the Quittapahila flows into the Swatara. Here Johannes Bindnagle owned a tract eight hundred or more acres by or before 1750. But this was divided before the close of the century. For then we have on this same tract Jacob Lentz, Leonard Doll, Daniel Henning in right of John Pinagle and John Early in right of John Carothers. From this we see that an Irishman had bought a part of Bindnagle's land. This is the only one in this section north of Palmyra whose name we have ever found. Part of this was afterwards owned by Rev. J. H. Van Hoff. Albrecht Sichele is generally located in this section, but we incline to the opinion that he lived southwest of Palmyra, toward Spring Creek, or even toward the Sand Hill church. Then we have Adam Rickert (Riechert), Anthony Hemperly, Daniel Longenecker, one of the Carmanys, J. Adam Deininger and Wilhelms. We do not know who owned the Bomberger, Horstick and Mark farms, but we are almost absolutely certain that the owners were not Irish or English. Further east were the Bowmans and Killingers. South of these more Killingers, Bowmans,

Conrad Reisch, William Palm, John Oehrle, Christopher Ernst, Leineweber, Henrys and Ketterings. Besides on the Gravel Hill there were the Horsts, Goodmans, etc.

South of Palmyra and south of John Early we find Robert McCallen, Robert Geddes, and among them John Sawyer. Immediately north of Sawyer we find Abraham Weltmer and to the north of the town, beyond J. A. Deininger, Peter Fernsler. But this should convince any one that Londonderry township north of and about Palmyra was predominantly German from the outset. What is now Derry and Londonderry of Dauphin County undoubtedly had a good sprinkling of Scotch-Irish and English among their first settlers. That there should be a little clash now and then between these different elements was but natural. For whoever heard of a genuine Irishman who enjoyed himself perfectly where he could not be mixed up in a scrap or scrimmage now and then. It was also perfectly natural that the English and Presbyterians, who are generally inclined to Puritanism, should cry out, "Look at the Dutch." It has always been the tendency of those who are Puritanically inclined to indulge in this kind of pastime. They are always ready to call the man who will abandon his faith for theirs, a very liberal fellow, and to apply the term "Dutch," or any other term of contempt, to the man who tells them, my religion is as good as yours, who insists that his own religion is as good as any English importation. But it will be seen from this that at the time the town was laid out, the Germans had virtually taken possession of the town and the surrounding country, and that before the beginning of the nineteenth century they owned five-sixths and possibly nine-tenths of the land, and constituted a like proportion of the population north and east of the town.

The Churches of Palmyra.

It is not our purpose to give a description or to write a

history of its churches. We might be tempted to indulge in some severe strictures, when it is palpably true that the churches, like the taverns, have increased beyond the needs of the population. For no man in the possession of his sane faculties would presume to say that ten churches of different faiths are needed in a town which at the highest numbers less than 3,500 people, including infants. We will therefore say nothing about the waste of energy and means or the palpable tendency to cause rivalry and bickering. These things should be evident to every one, but it should also be manifest to some of the late comers, that it would require a great stretch of charity for any one but a liberalist of the infidel school, to believe that they can expect to accomplish anything without trying to make inroads upon others, thus deliberately rending-asunder the body of Christ. Of course these people will be apt to have much to say about the bigotry of those who will not indorse their course, but they always remind us of the genial Quaker, George Fox, who wrote about certain persons in his diary—they "speak most of what runs in their head," and for that matter, in their hearts too. It is not the liberal man who is constantly talking about bigotry, but it is the narrowest bigot. He knows it so well he cannot stop talking about it.

We give the names of the churches and sects as they are given by themselves: Palm Evangelical Lutheran, the first church building erected in the town, 1845. Its history is given above. Trinity Reformed, formed in Palm Church. Church of God, popularly known as Winebrennarian, organized about forty or forty-five year ago. Evangelical Association about the same time. United Brethren, organized at Gravel Hill about sixty years ago and came to town later. St. Johns Lutheran, organized some twenty years ago. German Baptists, or Tunkers also Dunkers, came in lately. United Christian, a recent organization. Children of Zion, are erecting a building now.

Hoffmanites, whatever that may mean. We should perhaps have added a few words in regard to some of the other industries, shoe manufactories, planing mills, etc., but these are the products of today and can be viewed by all. Years hence their history may be written also.

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